Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—He was having his apprentice course there.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—How long?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—For one year.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—What appointment was he holding before he was appointed to this special post?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—He was the Superintendent of the Chowara Water Works.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—How long?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—For one and a half years.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Was the appointment of Mr. K. B. Menon notified in the Gazette at the time it was made?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Which appointment, Superintendent of Water Works or Special Officer?

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Special Officer.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It was not notified.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Why was it not notified?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It was a temporary appointment. There was no necessity.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—What was the date of his appointment as Special Officer?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—In the month of Meenam 1105.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Has he examined the schemes prepared by the Engineers whose names are given in answer to part (a)?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—He is taking detailed surveys on the lines suggested by the original report.

101. Mr. A. B. Salem.—Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(1) what definite plans they have at present for harnessing the water power available in the State for the generation of electrical power;

(2) what investigations have been made into the scheme on hand and by whom;

(3) what estimates have been prepared;

(4) will the Government be pleasd to place any report they have on the table of this House for public information?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(1) A scheme for the development of the water power resource of the Chalakkudi river at Poringalkuttu is being prepared.

(2) In 1917 and 1918 investigations were made by the British Westinghouse Co., and Mr. Forbes, the Chief Electrica

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Engineer, Mysore. At present detailed survey to bring forth a definite scheme and estimates is being done by the Special officer deputed for the purpose.

(3) Estimates are in the course of preparation. Field work for the power canal, forebay site, and pipe line has been completed.

(4) Government do not think that it would be in the public interest to place the reports on the table at present.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know, Sir, whether Mr. Menon has any experience of investigating Hydro-Electric Schemes before?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It must be clearly understood that Mr. K. B. Menon is not conducting an independent investigation. He is only making detailed surveys for the preparation of estimates indicated by the original investition.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Am I to take it that the original investigation made a survey?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—But not detailed enough to prepare estimates.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Whether no estimate is sent to the British Westinghouse Co.?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—No. Only cost reports.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—No data in the cost report how they have been arrived at?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—By approximate data. They took an approximation and submitted a cost report. But before making detailed estimates we have to take the level, the nature of the country, etc., and then prepare detailed estimates.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Has Mr. Menon any experience in this line?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—He has experience enough for conducting surveys.

Cochin Tanneries.

102. Mr. A. B. Salem.—(1) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of the original suit instituted against the Cochin Tanneries Ltd., by Government;

(2) what is the total amount claimed in the said suit;

(3) how long the case has been pending in the court;

(4) what is the present stage of the suit;

(5) has the Government caused the Tanneries at Chalakkudi to be inspected to see whether the amount due to Government can be recovered by the present assets of the Company;

(6) will the Government be further pleased to state why no steps have been taken to liquidate the concern in the interest of all the share-holders?

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